Decision on Soviet Offer of Power Projects

652. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision over the power projects offer made by the Soviet Union;

(b) if so, details of the proposed projects; and

(c) whether Government have taken any decision over the expansion of the existing Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant, in view of long term requirements and the details of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEANS DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes Sir. Expansion of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station by addition of two units of 235 MW each has been approved and work has commenced.

Indo-Pak Talks on Illicit Arms Trade

653. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indo-PAK talks on illicit arms, trade smuggling and illegal border crossing took place in Lahore in September this years; and

(b) if so, what are the decisions taken by the two Governments in the course of these talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was decided to continue these discussions at a mutually convenient date.

Task Force to Review Implementation of Projects

654. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a Task Force to undertake review of the progress of execution of major projects in the country; and

(b) if so, what is the composition of the Task Force and the powers and duties assigned to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Task Force constituted by the Ministry of Programme Implementation under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary of the Ministry included representatives of the Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Programme Implementation and the concerned administrative ministries in charge of projects. The duties assigned to the Task Force include annual review of all major projects costing over Rs. 100 crores, analyse the reasons fod non-achievement of targetted milestones based on the master network of each project and to correlate physical progress with utilisation of funds made available to the projects.

Pakistan's Nuclear Programme

655. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether the issue relating to Pakistan's Nuclear Programme figured in the meeting of our Prime Minister with the President of

United States and if so, what was the response from United States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): Pakistan's nuclear programme was one of the issues that was discussed by Prime Minister with President Reagan on 20 October, 1987. In this context the US President urged both India and Pakistan to deal with the threat of nuclear proliferation in the region. India cannot accept any approach equating her peaceful programme with Pakistan's nuclear programme with its apparent non-peaceful dimensions.

Nuclear Programme of Pakistan

656. PROF C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have expressed their unhappiness to the Government of Pakistan in regard to their Nuclear Programme; and

(b) if so, the attitude of the Pakistan Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pakistan claims that its nuclear programme is peaceful in nature. However, the fact that Pakistan is pursuing a weapons-oriented nuclear programme is now extensively documented and well-known the world over.

Electoral reforms

657. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to bring about electoral reforms in the country;

(b) if so, what are the proposed reforms; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to shift the reservations from one constituency to another?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Election Commission has formulated certain proposals for electoral reforms which are under the consideration of the Government. A statement regarding such proposals was laid on the Table of the House in reply to Starred Question No. 181 for 17th November, 1986. Another statement setting out some more proposals received from the commission was also laid on the Table of the House in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 91 for 27th July, 1987.

(c) This proposal is linked with the proposal for delimitation of constituencies which is part of the comprehensive proposals under consideration.

Facilities to Office-bearers of Recognised Service Association of Central Government Employees

658. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some facilities/benefits/immunities are granted to Office-bearers of recognised service associations of Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the dates since when these have been in force; and

(d) the earlier provisions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Statement is enclosed.